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SHIRLEY SWAFFORD: My name is Shirley Swafford, a
7 concerned citizen of Carson City. I have been reviewing the
8 written presentations by the Nuclear Waste Technical Review
9 Board, also known as NWTRB, since the first report, dated
10 March, 1990.
11 Just because a specific uncertainty might appear
12 to be minor in the eyes of the DOE, like the performance of a
13 specific barrier, doesn't mean that somewhere into the future,
14 say five to ten years, problems wouldn't suddenly develop.
15 The uncertainties, most of them are still there, and some will
16 always remain.
17 The first and biggest mistake made by Congress
18 was to declare only one possible repository to be studied.
19 For example, had Congress voted for three possible
20 repositories to be evaluated, we certainly would not be in our
21 current position of: We have no other choice but Yucca
22 Mountain, right or wrong.
23 I sympathize with the Department of Energy.
24 After all, look at all the money, actually, billions of
25 dollars, spent thus far on a repository that cannot possibly

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1 meet the specifications for a safe, secure storage for the
2 70,000 tons of high-level nuclear hazardous waste.

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3 I have not yet seen the NWTRB latest report for
4 the September presentation, but as of the DOE's responses on
5 September 7 to the July 17 letter, where again the DOE claim
6 the high temperature versus low temperature are thought to be
7 insignificant. Problems still exist with corrosion processes.
8 Waste package performance problem I believe still exist, and
9 what about the engineered barrier system?
10 I'm no scientist, but the uncertainties are still
11 there, and how do we justify storing 70,000 tons of hazardous
12 waste underground in an area surrounded by contaminated
13 craters caused by the bombings at the Nevada Test Site.
14 I realize there are pros and cons about which is
15 safer, having the waste remain at their current locations
16 encased in cement blocks -- certainly the cost would be
17 millions of dollars less -- or transport the waste through
18 city streets across the nation, subject to acts of terrorism.

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